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Filed : **December 30, 2003**

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed October 31, 2005, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the above-captioned application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following comments. As a result of the amendments listed above, Claims 1-8 and 10-19 remain pending, with Claims 1 and 8 having been amended.

In the changes made by the current amendment, ~~deletions are shown by strikethrough~~, and additions are underlined.

Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement

A supplemental information disclosure statement is filed herewith. Disclosed is a bicycle brake lever assembly that, to the best of the Applicant's knowledge was offered for sale more than one year prior to the filing date of the present application. The brake lever assembly was sold by Hayes Disc Brakes of Mequon, Wisconsin (the "Hayes" lever assembly). Photographs of an actual Hayes lever assembly are submitted herewith. Also submitted is a schematic cross-section of the Hayes lever assembly.

As illustrated in the schematic drawing, the Hayes lever assembly includes a pivot pin that is press fit into a bore of the lever with the lever positioned between flanges of the lever support perch. Accordingly, the pin and lever, once assembled, become a unitary structure and rotate together with respect to the support perch. The upper and lower ends of the pin are rotatably supported by upper and lower flanges of the lever support perch, respectively. However, as the result of such a structure, the lever is not serviceable by the average consumer.

In contrast, the claimed control lever assembly permits the lever to be removed from the support perch to be serviced or replaced, if necessary. For example, Claim 1 recites, among other limitations, that the upper and lower shaft portions "are configured to be removable from, and capable of reassembly to, said mount portion of said control lever." Claim 8 recites a control lever assembly in which a pivot shaft defines external threads and an aperture of the control lever defines internal threads. The external threads engage the internal threads when the pivot shaft is fixed to the control lever. Claim 18 also recites a control lever assembly in which the control lever is supported relative to a control lever support by a support bolt. The Hayes lever assembly, alone or in combination with the other prior art of record, does not disclose or suggest

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a lever having every claim limitation of any of the pending claims. As described above, the Hayes lever includes a pivot pin that, once assembled, is not removable from and capable of reassembly to the control lever to permit the control lever to be disassembled from the control lever support perch. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the presently pending claims are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

The undersigned has made a good faith effort to place the claims in condition for immediate allowance. Nevertheless, if any undeveloped issues remain or if any issues require clarification, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicant's attorney, Curtiss C. Dosier at (949) 721-7613 (direct line), to resolve such issue promptly.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: July 20, 2006

By: _____

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